

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /071 W
-----102902 131015Z /10 L

R 121709Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07114

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BE
SUBJECT: TINDEMANS ANNOUNCES BILL TO DEAL WITH BUDGET
CRISIS

REF: BRUSSELS 6839

1. IN A STATEMENT TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TODAY
PRIME MINISTER LEO TINDEMANS ANNOUNCED THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBMIT TO PARLIAMENT A CRISIS BILL
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TO DEAL WITH THE COUNTRY'S PRESSING BUDGET PROBLEM.
THE BILL IS TO BE INTRODUCED BY MAY AND VOTED BEFORE
THE SUMMER RECESS. THE EFFECTS OF THE BILL WILL
EXTEND OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT IS
PREPARED TO ACCEPT A 1978 OPERATING BUDGET DEFICIT
OF BF 65 BILLION. TO HOLD THE DEFICIT TO THAT FIGURE,
THE FIRST TARGETS ATTACKED WILL BE TAX AND SOCIAL

SECURITY FRAUD. ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ("MANPOWER TRAFFICKING") WILL ALSO BE ATTACKED. TINDEMANS SAID THAT BELGIUM LOSES ABOUT BF 20 BILLION IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THESE PRACTICES. A PROPOSED 2 ACROSS THE BOARD BUDGET CUT WILL BE APPLIED TO "ALL EXPENDITURES" (NO FURTHER DETAILS). THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE FUTURE OF HIS GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREGOING PROGRAM.

2. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER BUDGET DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

3. COMMENT: THE SCENARIO IMPUTED TO TINDEMANS IN REFTTEL APPEARS TO BE IN PROCESS. IN COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION JUST PRIOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT, A TRADE UNION LEADER CLOSE TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY TOLD US RUEFULLY THAT THE PRESENT COALITION COULD FALL APART OVER THE BUDGET ISSUE - AND REGIONALIZATION WITH IT. OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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